

Priorities Committee Meeting_Mar14_2017

Ward 4 Councillor Report

Elected Official: Carla Howatt

Boards and Committees:*Community Living Advisory Committee (CLAC)*

January 12, 2017
February 15, 2017

The first meeting I attended as a new representative on CLAC was also the first meeting for several committee members so we all had an opportunity to learn more about how it is structured.

The members of CLAC identify an area they are interested in (youth, seniors, accessibility, etc.) and they take it upon themselves to attend any meetings or talk to others in the community with the same issues. They report what they hear and bring issues forward to CLAC as they arise.

When the County requests input into a specific plan or initiative, CLAC determines who is best suited to provide input or they do so as a group.

At this meeting we received a report from Heartland Housing Foundation (HHF) on the work they are currently doing on the recommendations from the Mayor's Taskforce on Community Housing. CLAC indicated they were available if needed to assist or become more closely involved.

A chair and a vice-chair were elected at this meeting as well. Marcus Schwabe will continue as chair and Judy Ferguson was elected as vice-chair.

At the second meeting, in February, CLAC received a report from Family and Community Services on the results of the Community Talks phase 1.

At the second meeting, CLAC discussed how the county handles inclusive hiring, in particular the hiring of those with intellectual disabilities. The City of Edmonton was used as an example as they have a program in place that is apparently working quite well. Committee will investigate further before making recommendations to council.

Heartland Housing Strategic Planning Session

January 26, 2017

The board of Heartland Housing Foundation met for a day in Fort Saskatchewan to work our way through the creation of a strategic plan. There were great discussions around diversification of funding, engaging residents as ambassadors and a more strategic approach to advocacy.

The approved strategic plan will be shared with Council once the final plan is approved by the board.

Capital Region Board Housing Committee

The 2016/2017 housing work plan update was given by Headwater Group and Gordon & Associates. I expressed concern that the one page outline for municipalities to use to develop their housing plans that was included in this work plan was not sufficient. To have put this much money and time into a plan and to have it end with a one page form that municipalities are to complete was not enough, in my mind. I expected to see a lot more come out of it. The way the one sheet was set up, any municipality could fill it in with information on what they are doing today and then go about their business, with nothing changing.

The draft will be coming back at our next meeting with that area "fleshed out".

The committee also took a tour of Southwoods, a development by Christenson Group of Companies. This development was one of two projects that won the Capital Region Board Affordable Housing pilot project contest.

Inter-city Forum on Social Policy (IFSP)

February 10, 2017

The IFSP met with Finance Minister Joe Ceci and discussed shared concerns around social issues. The conversation seemed to indicate that:

- Federal monies to be included in housing strategy coming out this spring (March)
- All core funding will be maintained
- Pilot projects for \$25 day care as well as school lunch programs.
- Freeze tuitions for post-secondary
- 2% funding growth for post-secondary
- Health funding maintained
- Family and Community Support Services will continue to have \$100 million
- Four years is left in the MSI commitment, which takes us to 2021. Talks about where to from there will begin probably this year.

Please note that none of this information is set in stone but there was an indication given by the Minister.

Professional Development:

Sustainability 101: Governance for Sustainability

January 18, 2017

This course was based on five sections:

- 1) Sustainable development as an integrative, multi-sectoral process for rural communities
- 2) Public engagement and participation as a necessary condition of sustainability
- 3) Public management as a key element of sustainability governance
- 4) Accountability and responsibility of leadership, institutions and practices
- 5) Increasing importance of inter-municipal and inter-community planning and collaboration

This specific module (governance) is very timely given the proposed changes to the Capital Region Board (transitioning to Growth Management Board) and the changing Municipal Government Act. In particular, there was a focus on collaboration and integration amongst municipalities. One of the case studies included the "Action Plan for a New Local Governance System in New Brunswick". Another example was a case study called Municipalities Amalgamate in Manitoba: moving towards rural regions.

I currently have the binder with all the case studies if any councillors are interested in learning more.